

Rumson Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of June 26, 2014
Charles S. Callman Courthouse Conference Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chairman Charles Shay.

Roll Call: Present: Councilwoman Laura Atwell, Mr. James Fitzmaurice, Mr. Ross Millhiser, Mr. Steven Peterson, Chairman Charles Shay, Mrs. Roberta Van Anda and Intern Brian Malley

Absent: Planning Board Liaison Thomas Clark

The Chairman declared a quorum present and announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act had been met by the posting and mailing of a schedule of all regular meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission for 2014 to the *Asbury Park Press* and the *Two River Times*.

Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2014

The minutes of the May 15, 2014 meeting were approved after a motion by Mr. Peterson which was seconded by Councilwoman Atwell.

Old Business

Chairman's Report

Chairman Shay stated the June 9th workshop meeting was a success. He notified the members that he has been requested to attend the July 22nd Borough Council meeting to give a progress report and to share with the Council our definition of "historically significant." Chairman Shay has asked Mr. Fitzmaurice to accompany him to the meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports

Historic Property Catalogue

Because members attended the workshop meeting, they were aware of the progress on the Historic Property Catalogue. There was nothing new to report.

Historic Preservation Commission Website

Mr. Peterson reported that the next goal for the website is to put in as much time as possible into updating the data base. The committee will meet on July 1 at 6:00 PM at the Courthouse conference room to continue working on identification of historic homes in order to update the data base. The method is for Mr. Fitzmaurice to make notes on the new data and to email that information to Councilman Ben Day who will revise the database.

Communication with Council and Board

Mr. Clark was not in attendance to give a report.

Minutes and Agenda to Website

The Secretary was advised to send the minutes of the May 15, 2014 meeting to Councilman Day for posting on the Borough website.

State Historic Preservation Commission

Chairman Shay shared a letter from Borough Administrator Tom Rogers to the Monmouth County Historic Preservation Commission Executive Director in which he named Mr. Millhiser as the representative of the Borough of Rumson when needed. Mr. Millhiser has accepted this position. Chairman Shay suggested a motion to select Ross R. Millhiser Jr. as Rumson Historic Preservation Commission representative for the Borough of Rumson at any meeting and/or event of the Monmouth County Historical Commission deemed to be appropriate by the County Chairman. Mr. Peterson made the motion, and Mr. Fitzmaurice seconded it.

New Business

- A.** Chairman Shay asked Mr. Fitzmaurice, Mr. Peterson and our intern, Brian Malley to meet at least once between our meetings and more frequently if possible as updates are being done for the Borough database.
- B.** Definition of "Historically Significant"- Chairman Shay passed out copies of a letter on defining "historic" that Mr. Fitzmaurice created in 2008 and a fact sheet from the National Register with evaluation criteria for determining historic significance. He explained that the Borough Council is expecting to hear our definition, and he led a discussion of this topic. Some members thought that they had voted on this at a past meeting and that it had been decided to use the definition of the National Register's Evaluation Criteria. The secretary volunteered to check past minutes. In the discussion, some new criteria that were important to some members were brought up. It was

suggested that we take into consideration historic remnants of old estates on properties. It was also suggested that we consider if greatly renovated structures could conceivably be returned to their original states. It was also discussed that we should consider the emotional attachment of the community to certain structures. An example would be the McCarter Bridge, the loss of which saddened many people.

Comments

Chairman Shay reviewed committee assignments for the upcoming month. Mr. Fitzmaurice, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Malley will meet on July 1 to identify more homes, and Mr. Fitzmaurice will forward their progress to Councilman Day for the database. They will also work on the definition of “historically significant.” Mrs. Van Anda will look through back minutes to research whether the Commission has already passed a motion defining this term. Once our definition has been determined, the database can be updated to reflect not only the age of the structures but also the rationale as to why they have been deemed historically significant.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday **July 17, 2014 at 6:00 PM.**

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM by a motion by Mr. Millhiser seconded by Mr. Fitzmaurice.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta H. Van Anda, Secretary